

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

Call to Order

President Bob Cutshall called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the NMCWD office, Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, MN.

Managers Present: Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Larry Olson, and Peggy Kvam

Manager Absent: Erin Hunker

Advisors Present: Brendan Dougherty*, Janna Kieffer and Michael McKinney (Barr Engineering Company), and Michael Welch (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Randy Anhorn (Administrator), Erica Sniegowski (Program and Project Manager), Brett Eidem (Natural Resources Project and Planning Manager), and Zach Stafslie (Regulatory Program Manager)

Others Present: Jordan Wein (WSB & Associates)*

*Attended virtually

I. Integrated Pest Management Plan for Common Carp in Normandale Lake

a. WSB 2023 Normandale Lake Carp Management Scope of Work

Jordan Wein from WSB reported on efforts to manage the proliferation of carp in Normandale Lake. He listed the objectives for the district's 2022 Normandale Lake carp and fisheries management work:

- Update the carp population/biomass estimate;
- Monitor carp movement through the inlet;
- Carp removal to reduce biomass; and,

- Evaluate general fisheries status.

Mr. Wein explained the three phases of carp management: baseline data collection, implementation, and maintenance. He reported the 2022 post-removal carp population estimate is 12,103 and post-removal carp biomass estimate is 182.9 pounds per acre. Mr. Wein pointed out the ecological tipping point for a lake is approximately 89 pounds of carp per acre, beyond which there is potential for severe negative impacts to water quality and ecological integrity.

Mr. Wein reported the baseline data collection phase is mostly finished, with just three of the 15 tasks still open. He reported that in the second phase, more than 1,000 carp were removed through the baited box net method. Mr. Wein summarized the study's results:

- Carp are estimated to be above the damaging biomass threshold.
- Carp move through the outlet under 84th street.
- The dominant age class of the carp in the lake is from the recruitment event after the 2019 drawdown and could be contributing to viable eggs.
- Baited box netting to remove carp works.

Manager Olson asked about carp leaving Normandale Lake via the weir. Mr. Wein responded by explaining it could be possible for carp to leave the lake via this route, but it is unlikely that enough carp are leaving to have a large effect on biomass reduction.

Manager Butler asked about the take-away learning from the 2019 draw down of the lake. Mr. Wein said any time a lake is impacted by a huge ecological change, there is a possibility of invasive species taking advantage of those conditions before native species can.

Erica Sniegowski noted that during planning for the 2019 drawdown, district staff and consultants were concerned about the possibility of carp recruitment in response to the drawdown. She said the district had a fish survey conducted and arranged for the Department of Natural Resources to stock bluegill. Manager Butler said in hindsight not enough bluegills were stocked. Janna Kieffer noted the number of bluegill available at that time was limited.

Mr. Wein described the proposed scope of work for continued carp removal and tracking of movement. Mr. Wein stated that following the 2023 work, the management plan will be updated and goals will be reassessed. Mr. Wein recommended the district continue conversations about potentially targeting the movement of the carp and putting in a temporary carp barrier.

Michael Welch commented that the district has been working for four years on carp management on Normandale Lake. He asked about the end goal and if there will be a carp payday down the road. Mr. Wein said the biomass estimate is the starting point for understanding if there is a carp problem or not in the lake and if the carp are contributing to water quality problems in the lake. He said it is for the district to consider when to move the program from the management phase to the maintenance phase.

Ms. Sniegowski responded the district needs to continue to remove carp biomass, particularly since the post-drawdown predominant class will keep getting bigger.

The managers discussed bluegills, including that they consume carp eggs and having a healthy population level of bluegills in lakes is important to keeping carp population in check.

Manager Butler said it is not time to transition from carp management at Normandale Lake to maintenance.

Ms. Sniegowski went into more detail about the 2023 work scope for the Normandale Lake integrated pest management for common carp, and Mr. Wein displayed the proposed scope of work budget table. Ms. Sniegowski listed the tasks, such as installing two new PIT stations, installing box net and traps, managing the box net baiting, removing the carp, data analysis, and program management. She said the cost for these tasks is \$35,440 and staff recommends the board approve the WSB scope of work as submitted.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Butler to authorize the administrator to enter into an agreement with WSB on advice of counsel for the Normandale Lake 2023 carp work at not to exceed \$35,440. Upon vote, the motion carried.

II. Normandale Lake 2023 Herbicide Treatment Quotes

Ms. Sniegowski reported the district sent a request for quotes to two companies, PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. and Lake Restoration, Inc., for the Normandale Lake 2023 Herbicide Treatment. She pointed out the RFQ was for a full-lake and a partial-lake treatment because the district will not know which treatment will be needed until a spring vegetation survey is conducted. She said both companies submitted a quote, with PLM submitting the lower quote for the partial-lake treatment and Lake Restoration submitting the lower quote for the full-lake treatment. Ms. Sniegowski recommended the board authorize PLM for a partial lake treatment or Lake Restoration, Inc. for treatment of the whole, as directed by the results of the vegetation survey, and to delegate to the administrator the authority to approve one or more change orders not to exceed in aggregate 10 percent of the contract cost.

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Kvam to authorize the administrator on advice of counsel to enter an agreement with PLM for a partial lake treatment at not-to-exceed \$3,535 or to enter an agreement with Lake Restoration Inc. at not-to-exceed \$44,727, as directed by the results of the vegetation survey, and to delegate to the administrator the authority to approve one or more change orders not to exceed in aggregate 10 percent of the contract cost. Upon vote, the motion carried.

III. Discovery Point Landscape Restoration and Stormwater Best Management Practice Maintenance Quotes

Brett Eidem said the district went out for quotes for a three-year period of Discovery Point sitewide maintenance including the management of vegetation in the BMPs and planted areas around the building along with tasks such as a prescribed burn and replacement of the overflow parking turf. He said quotes for the three-year contract were submitted by Stantec, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Davey Resources Group, and Landbridge Ecological. Mr. Eidem said Stantec was the low quote, although the quotes reflected higher costs across the board compared to the approximate \$9,000 per year cost for the work in recent years. Mr. Eidem requested the board review the received quotes, select the contractor, and authorize the administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with the selected contractor.

It was moved by Manager Kvam, seconded by Manager Olson to authorize the administrator to enter into an agreement with Stantec, on advice of legal counsel, for the Discovery Point vegetation maintenance for not-to-exceed \$52,134. Upon vote, the motion carried.

IV. Bush Lake Shoreline Vegetation Management Quotes

Randy Anhorn said the Bush Lake Shoreline vegetation management work is for a three-year contract and the costs are split 50-50 between the district and the City of Bloomington. He reported the district received five quotes. He said Minnesota Native Landscaping submitted the lowest bid at \$56,925. Administrator Anhorn said that cost equates to approximately \$19,000 per year, which is then split between the district and the City of Bloomington. He said staff will work with Barr to see if the total costs can come down a little.

Manager Butler noted the need to keep an eye out for a good location for placing educational signage.

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Olson to authorize the administrator to enter into an agreement with Minnesota Native

Landscaping, on advice of legal counsel, for Bush Lake Shoreline Vegetation Management work at not-to-exceed \$56,925. Upon vote, the motion carried.

V. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy

Mr. Eidem presented the updated draft DEIA policy based on the Board's feedback at its last meeting:

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District strives to understand and to prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Within the context of strategic watershed management, the district will work toward addressing current and historical inequities in every facet of its operation.

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Kvam to adopt the DEIA policy as drafted. Upon vote, the motion carried.

VI. Phase 3 of Flood Risk Reduction and Resiliency Study Update

Ms. Kieffer updated the managers on the engineers' work to develop guidelines for partnerships to address flooding and mitigate flood risk. Ms. Kieffer introduced Mr. Michael McKinney, project manager.

Mr. McKinney reminded the Board that Task 2.4 objectives include:

Determining the district's preferred role in flood risk-reduction projects and thereby helping the district with planning and prioritization for capital projects and determining clear messaging to district partners regarding the level of involvement the district could have in flood risk reduction projects.

Mr. McKinney noted the district's Water Management Plan section 6.6 provides guidance for working in partnership, including a prioritization tier system for NMCWD involvement. Mr. McKinney described the spectrum of potential organizational involvement ranging from lowest involvement to highest: regulatory, at the table, partner but not project lead, partner as project lead, and leader.

Mr. McKinney explained that the involvement level will depend on the type of participation needed, such as technical, financial, planning/stakeholder involvement/education. He explained the district's level of involvement can also depend on project stage, such as initial planning, feasibility, design, and construction.

Ms. Kieffer discussed criteria to be considered when determining the district's role in flood risk reduction projects. Manager Kvam commented that another consideration is where there is a void of particular skills or expertise by the potential partner. Manager Butler said she sees potential for the district to prioritize issues that

cities are not and potential for the district to see problems in a bigger way than how the cities see them.

President Cutshall asked if the district could mitigate district flooding issues without an active management system. Ms. Kieffer responded that an active management system should be considered but will not likely be enough to address the extent of flooding issues. President Cutshall asked if there is a way to start investigating how an active management system would work. Ms. Kieffer said it is not too early to investigate an active management system.

Ms. Kieffer presented examples of potential flood risk reduction projects that the district could play a partnership role in, including a project example of an adaptive level control system at Marsh Lake that would work to release water throughout the system to help get more water through the system. She said this type of system needs coordination as things need to happen in concert. She stated this type of project seems like one type in which the district would have a role.

Ms. Kieffer indicated Barr is seeking feedback from the managers at upcoming meetings about the projects they desire to be involved with as a partner and how specific the district wants its partnership participation guidance to be.

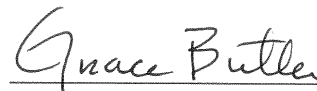
Manager Butler said the district misses opportunities, for example the district could end up needing to retrofit the recently replaced culvert used for the drawdown of Normandale Lake, to achieve flood risk reduction whereas the district maybe could have retrofitted the outlet retrofit the onset. Ms. Kieffer said she sees the possibility of the district playing a big role in helping to plan such things and helping the cities think through how to make such things happen.

Ms. Kieffer asked the managers to consider the possible criteria, presented earlier in the discussion, that the district could use as consideration factors. Mr. Welch asked the managers to consider what they need to see next to move forward with this process. President Cutshall said he thinks the district needs an overall plan for the watershed that identifies 10 to 15 keys areas for flood storage and identifies key areas for active management. He said the district could show this overall framework to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the communities.

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Butler, seconded by Manager Olson to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace Butler, Secretary

